

Early road closure spurs resident complaints

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Many north Valley residents had braced themselves for a weekend of major delays along Interstate 17, but on Friday afternoon, when they noticed an unexpected road closure - nine hours ahead of schedule - they called their state senator to complain.

State Sen. Pamela Gorman, called Victor Mendez, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, and within a half hour the crew stopped their work.

Tim Tait, ADOT community relations director, says you don't need to be a senator or to call the top ADOT official to report anything unusual about the state's freeways. Call ADOT's hotline, 480-890-3055.

A major widening of I-17 is going on over the two years in the north Valley but this weekend will be the "peak of inconvenience" for travelers, according to Tait. I-17 will be closed in both directions at Carefree Highway until 5 a.m. Monday as ADOT crews tear down the old Carefree Highway Bridge to make room for a wider bridge.